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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

#88
E. H. M.
3/12/03
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

CHRISTIAN D. GARCIA
STEPHANE VIRALLY
STEVE ANYAN
PATRICK BIXENMAN

Serial No.: 09/929,499

Filed: August 14, 2001

For: DEBRIS FREE VALVE APPARATUS

Confirmation No.: 9552

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Brian D. Halford

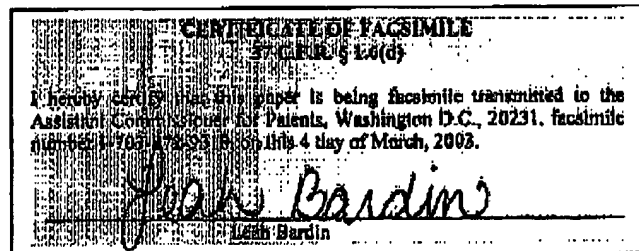
Attorney Docket: 2032.006196/DCD
(68.0194CNT)

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED DECEMBER 4, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:



This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 4, 2002, for which the three-month date for response is March 4, 2003.

If an extension of time is required to enable this paper to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this paper is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

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It is believed that no fee is due; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Williams, Morgan & Amerson, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0786/2032.006196DCD.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.